

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/773,627

Applicant(s)

ARIYASU ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin R Krueer

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response to non-final rejection mailed March 23, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-18 and 20-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/08/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Gallagher on Thursday April 8, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A thermoplastic resin integrated structure, which comprises:

a structural member (A) molded from a resin composition (a) comprising 5-80% by weight of polyacetal resin (a-1) and 20-95% by weight of at least one resin (a-2) selected from the group consisting of polyolefin resin, olefinic elastomer and hydrogenated butadienic elastomer, wherein structural member (A) is a laminate composed of at least two layers each molded from the resin compositions (a), which are different from each other in composition;

a structural member (B) molded from thermoplastic resin (b); and

a structural member (C) consisting essentially of polyacetal resin (c), and includes at least one structure of structural member (C)-structural member (A)-structural member (B) as integrated in this order,

wherein the structural member (A) and the structural member (B) are integrated together by welding.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

In claim 4, the dependency has been changed from "3" to -- 1- -.

In claim 8, the dependency has been changed from "1-7" to -- 1 and 4-7- -.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

Claim 17 (currently amended): A thermoplastic resin integrated structure, which comprises:

a structural member (A) molded from a resin composition (a) comprising 5-80% by weight of polyacetal resin (a-1) and 20-95% by weight of at least one resin (a-2) selected from the group consisting of polyolefin resin, olefinic elastomer and hydrogenated butadienic elastomer;

a structural member (B) molded from a polyacetal resin; and

a structural member (C) consisting essentially of polyacetal resin (c), and includes at least one structure of structural member (C)-structural member (A)-structural member (B) as integrated in this order,

wherein the structural member (A) and the structural member (B) are integrated together by welding.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 4-18 and 20-24 are allowed. The closest prior art is JP 10-029276 (herein referred to as Polyplastics) in view of Blemberg et al (US 5,108,844).

Polyplastics teaches a laminate comprising a polyacetal resin layer, an olefin resin layer, and an adhesive layer containing modified olefin (paragraph 0008). The olefin resin layer may comprise homopolymers, block polymers, graft polymers, or random copolymers of C₂₋₁₂ olefins (0025 and 0026). Polyplastics does not teach that the adhesive layer should additionally comprise polyacetal. However, Blemberg teaches that, if layers X and Y are directly adjacent to one another, adhesion between said layers can be improved by blending 10-30wt% of Y into layer X, and 10-30wt% of X into layer Y (col 2, lines 13+).

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art because the prior art does not teach or render obvious a laminate comprising structural member (C)-structural member (A)-structural member (B) as integrated in this order, wherein structural member (A) comprises 2 layers of the claimed resin composition (a) each which are different from each other in composition. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Polyplastics or Blemberg that would teach or render obvious the addition of a layer comprising claimed resin composition (a) between the polyacetal layer and the olefin resin layer.

Claim 17 is allowable over the prior art because the prior art does not teach or render obvious a laminate comprising structural member (C)-structural member (A)-structural member (B) as integrated in this order, wherein structural member (A) comprises the claimed resin composition (a) and structural members (B) and (C) each comprises polyacetal resin. There is nothing in the prior art that teaches or renders obvious a laminate wherein the claimed resin composition (a) is utilized between two layers of polyacetal.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin R Kruer whose telephone number is 571-272-1510. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on 571-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin R. Kruer
Patent Examiner-Art Unit 1773